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Massive Security Measures Set for Olympic Games

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LOS ANGELES—Faced with Soviet complaints about crime, demonstrations and potential terrorist threats, Los Angeles Olympic officials have completed plans to flood the 1984 Summer Games with security officers, electronic monitors and modern methods of rapid-fire arrest and processing.

Although most Olympic officials discount Soviet fears of danger from hostile demonstrators, they have arranged for about 16,000 security officers—nearly two for every athlete—to patrol event sites, highways and three Olympic villages.

Demonstrations that grow out of control, said University of California Assistant Vice Chancellor John Barber, will be handled with accelerated arrest procedures perfected during anti-nuclear demonstrations in northern California last year.

"They had a circus tent with three good-old-boy judges who wouldn't take any nonsense," said Barber, chief of security for all University of California campuses, "and they ran them through there like they were running through a cattle pen."

Despite the enormous problem of providing security for three Olympic villages and 23 game sites separated by as much as 150 miles of freeway, Olympic officials said the combination of a special federal task force, the large Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), police in several neighboring cities and a huge civilian security force hired for the games will be enough to handle any problem.

There have been reports of disagreements between the FBI and the LAPD, but the two organizations signed a protocol in February laying out their separate responsibilities in any terrorist outbreak.

Edgar Best, security director for the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee, said, "From inception the coordination has been excellent."

A special 50-member FBI hostage rescue team, matched by the LAPD's special weapons and tactics team, have trained to kill terrorists from long distance without hurting hostages.

A web of intelligence-gathering agencies, including the CIA and the National Security Agency, is funneling material to Los Angeles on potential threats from Armenian, Irish, Palestinian, radical German, Puerto Rican and other terrorist groups. According to The Los Angeles Times, the federal government has identified 50 major and 50 minor terrorist organizations that might try to affect the games.

Chain link fences will surround the major Olympic villages at the University of Southern

California and the University of California at Los Angeles. Security officials are making dormitory assignments based in part on the threat posed to each athletic delegation.

Barber, a former detective, pointing to a UCLA dorm that hugged a hillside near a busy street, said, "They'll put people in there like the Norwegians or the Swedes, people that everybody loves."

Olympic security officials here are haunted by the memory of the 1972 games in Munich, where 11 Israeli team members, one West German policeman and five anti-Israeli terrorists died after the terrorists invaded the Olympic village. But the officials also note that the lessons of Munich helped Olympic organizers make preparations that helped prevent major violence at the Montreal games in 1976.

Barber said he has studied the Munich tragedy. He blames security lapses on an unwieldy Olympic bureaucracy and on an initial German effort to keep police out of sight so as not to reawaken memories of the Nazi era. "The police wanted to keep a very low-profile image," Barber said.

Los Angeles Police Cmdr. William Booth said it was also significant that at the time of the Munich attack, "we didn't think people could be that dastardly." Now, he said, security officials feel the massive security force being planned for, and publicity about it, will discourage attempts to disrupt the 1984 games.

The headquarters of the organizing committee provides an example of the attention paid to security. In the small lobby, a security officer runs a hand-held metal detector over a visitor's clothes and puts purses and bags through a fluoroscope while another officer

checks the visitor's identification. No one enters the main portion of the building without a special badge and an escort.

Best, a former FBI agent in charge of the Los Angeles field office, said he hopes to avoid using metal detectors on spectators, a practice that created annoying delays at the Sarajevo Winter Games.

But he added that circumstances such as information on a terrorist plan to disrupt a certain event might force him to check everyone going to some sites.

The Summer Games are billed as a private-enterprise Olympics. Although Best is relying on many local police and sheriff's offices, a substantial contingent of FBI and Secret Service and about half the 7,000-member LAPD, the security force does not end there. The Olympic committee has hired managers of nine private security companies to put together a force of thousands of agents for game sites and Olympic villages.

Best said many of the temporary employees would be members of college ROTC units and part-time campus police and usually would be unarmed during their Olympic duties.

The agreement between the LAPD and the FBI gives unusual power to the city force in recognition of its size and the sophistication of its training and equipment.

According to a statement released after the February agreement, the FBI will have jurisdiction in "threats or extortions involving nuclear, biological or chemical substances, sky-jacking or air piracy, and crimes committed exclusively on federal property." The LAPD will handle "all initial responses for tactical and operational purposes," except those on federal reservations.

Driving west on Sunset Boulevard, which skirts the northern edge of what will be the Olympic Village at UCLA, Barber said advice to motorists during the Olympics is, "Don't break down on Sunset, because it will be like breaking down on the San Francisco Bay Bridge. Your car will be surrounded and towed away long before you can even get to a telephone."